

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR FOUR | FALL QUARTER
NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY I



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SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

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LESSON SEQUENCE

FALL QUARTER

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the **Implementing God's Word...** curriculum is to equip youth to put the truths of Scripture together in their minds and to work in their hearts, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON ONE	Matthew 1:1-4:11
LESSON TWO	Matthew 4:12-7:29
LESSON THREE	Matthew 8-10
LESSON FOUR	Matthew 11-16
LESSON FIVE	Matthew 17-22
LESSON SIX	Matthew 23-28
LESSON SEVEN	Mark 1-3
LESSON EIGHT	Mark 4-8
LESSON NINE	Mark 9-12
LESSON TEN	Mark 13-16
LESSON ELEVEN	Luke 1-4
LESSON TWELVE	Luke 5-9
LESSON THIRTEEN	Luke 10-13



DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF
PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

LESSON ONE --- MATTHEW 1:1-4:11

OVERVIEW

We begin our survey of the New Testament in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew brings us forward from Old Testament prophecies to their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. He is Israel's long expected Messiah! So this Gospel begins with a brief genealogy to show that Jesus is fully man, the son of David, and fully connected to Father Abraham. The entire Old Testament is summed up in the first part of Chapter One.

Then, Matthew gives his description of the birth of Jesus Christ. We learn that Jesus is fully God, the promised Messiah, and God With Us. His birth fulfills Old Testament prophecy. Jesus Christ will bring salvation to His people!

Christ's birth narrative continues in the next chapter. We have prophecies fulfilled again and again. Bethlehem is His birthplace. Egypt is a temporary place of refuge. Nazareth is His childhood home. All these places are foretold in the Old Testament. And, we see the wise men bowing before the newborn King, as well as King Herod trying to kill Him. This Gospel opens with great intrigue!

In Matthew 3, John the Baptist appears on the scene. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets, as well as the forerunner of Jesus. He preaches repentance, and baptizes Jesus to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus is officially set apart for His earthly ministry. Then, in Chapter Four, Jesus is immediately tempted by Satan, yet demonstrates His perfection and power over evil. The stage is set for His preaching, teaching, and miracle-working ministry to begin.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

It's sad how many modern Christians spend their Bible study time only in the New Testament, as if it is the only home of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Make sure your students don't fall into this error! Connect their hearts and minds fully to the Old Testament as you begin your study of the New Testament. Help them see that this is just a continuation and an expansion of the ONE STORY of redemption in Jesus Christ. The Gospels are certainly rich and beautiful to study; yet they must never be disconnected from the rest of Scripture. We must all learn to read the New Testament in light of the Old and the Old Testament in light of the New!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Psalm 95:6-7
2-3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The Bible
3-5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

Inform and Transform
6-8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

Matthew 1:1-4:11
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

God's promises and God's Word
3-5 mins.



WELCOME

THE **WELCOME** SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET YOUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH A PASSAGE FROM PSALMS THAT WILL "CALL" THEM TO STUDY AND GROW IN WISDOM!

DRILL TIME GIVES YOUR YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE WILL BE QUESTIONS FROM A PREVIOUS LESSON OR FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

Listen to God's Word. Read Psalm 95:6-7.

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Always remember that the study of God's Word is meant to be a part of our WORSHIP of God. It's not an academic exercise. Learning God's Word should make us love Him more!



DRILL TIME

Now, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned from God's Word. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *How many books are there in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament? How many in the New Testament? Who wrote the Bible? How do we know the Bible is God's Word?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. 66 books.
2. 39.
3. 27.
4. Holy men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
5. Because the Bible says it is!

That last question is a tough one! There are actually many reasons to believe the fact that the Bible is truly God's Word. Yet the truth is that you will only believe it is God's Word when God opens your heart and mind to that fact. We need God to give us new minds so that we can know the truth. And one of the first truths you need to believe is that God's Word is TRUTH!

That leads us to our next section...



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: Each week, we will train our minds to think the way God wants us to think. Specifically, we need to learn how to THINK through God's Word as we study it.

There are a vast amount of books out there, that's for sure. In your lifetime, how many books do you think you have read? **Allow answers.** How many of those books have you read over and over again, every year? **Allow answers.**

We will think about how UNIQUE the Bible is over the next several weeks. What I want us to consider today is two very important words: INFORMATION and TRANSFORMATION.

What is INFORMATION? **Allow answers.** Information is the data or facts about someone or something. The Bible certainly has lots of INFORMATION in it about God, the world, history, and ourselves. But, lots of books are filled with INFORMATION! So what makes the Bible more INFORMATIVE than any other book? **Allow brainstorming.**

So we read the Bible to learn INFORMATION. And, we can trust that this INFORMATION is all true, unlike other sources. But the Bible is much more than a source of INFORMATION. Our next word to learn today is TRANSFORMATION. What does it mean to be TRANSFORMED? **Allow answers.**

To be TRANSFORMED is to change dramatically. The Bible has been given to us to CHANGE us. It is the Word of God which brings salvation through the Spirit of God. It also TRANSFORMS people into the image of Christ on a daily basis.

Let's put these two important concepts together. The Bible is filled with INFORMATION which brings about TRANSFORMATION. No other book in the world can change us like the Bible can. So my question to you is: Is it changing you?

THE **MIND-IN-TRAINING** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO LEARN TO THINK.

THIS ELEMENT TEACHES A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE MIND, USEFUL TOOLS TO ENGAGE YOUNG MINDS, AND HELP IN INTERPRETING GOD'S WORD.



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

THE BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT TAKES THE STUDENT ALL THROUGH GOD'S WORD, SYSTEMATICALLY TYING IT TOGETHER TO BUILD A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Introduction: *This year, we will be surveying the New Testament. The Old Testament ended with Israel restored to their land, but still longing for a Messiah. The Gospel of Matthew, one of three "Synoptic" Gospels, focuses on Christ's three-year ministry on earth, as well as His death and resurrection. Let's look upon some of these familiar stories with fresh eyes and open hearts.*

We begin with Matthew 1. **Read Matthew 1:1.**

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Discussion: *What's a genealogy? [A record of family generations.] Why do you think Matthew begins his Gospel with a genealogy? **Allow answers.** Matthew is establishing the connection to the Old Testament saints, as well as showing that Jesus was fully MAN. Later, we will see that Jesus is also fully GOD! And don't forget that the Israelites were promised that a "Son of David" would always be on the throne. Jesus is that Son of David! Now, scan down and see the names of people we learned about in the Old Testament.*

Go to verse 17. **Read verse 17.**

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Discussion: *God is in control of all human history! And, in perfect order, we move from His call of Abraham, to His anointing of King David, to the Babylonian Captivity, to Jesus Christ. Matthew shows how the time had now come for the Savior to be born!*

Let's keep reading. **Read verses 18-25.**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to



fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Discussion: *What specific things do we learn about Jesus from Matthew’s account of His birth? **Allow answers.** We learn that Jesus is fully GOD, He is the promised MESSIAH, and He is GOD WITH US.*

Let’s go to Chapter Two. **Read Matthew 2:1-12.**

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ “ ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Discussion: *Notice that Matthew continues to make it clear that Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah. How many wise men were sent out by Herod? [We don’t know.] Was Herod really interested in worshiping the Messiah? [No way!] But the wise men worshiped Him—so we see early evidence of Jesus being the Christ and the KING of all! These were gifts meant for a king, not an ordinary baby. And, don’t miss how Christ’s life was spared!*

THIS **SIDEBAR** FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION MAY ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.



Let's continue. Read verses 13-18.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

Discussion: *Again, notice the repetition of Old Testament prophecies that were being fulfilled. The New Testament is a continuation of the Old! Herod is another in a long line of anti-christs, motivated by Satan to destroy the Messiah. Praise the LORD that Herod wasn't successful! In the rest of the chapter, we see Jesus and His parents settling in Nazareth to fulfill even more prophecy.*

Let's look at Chapter Three. Read Matthew 3:1-11.

¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."



Discussion: *Now we get another firm connection to the Old Testament: John the Baptist. Even though John shows up in the New Testament, he is considered the last Old Testament prophet. He fulfills Old Testament prophecy and points the way to the Messiah. But also notice his gospel message of repentance and turning from sin to the LORD!*

*Let's read on. **Read verses 13-17.***

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Discussion: *Why was Jesus baptized? As an act of repentance? [No. To fulfill all righteousness] Jesus was set apart at His baptism by the Father and the Spirit as the Messiah. Then, He was led by the Spirit to the wilderness.*

*Go to Chapter Four. **Read Matthew 4:2-11.***

² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' " ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' " ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

THE **MIND-IN-ACTION** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO MOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ACTION. AS THEIR MINDS GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO GROW IN WISDOM. THEY WILL NEVER TRULY LEARN IF THEY DON'T PUT WHAT THEY HAVE STUDIED INTO PASSIONATE ACTION!



Conclusion: *Jesus not only fulfills the Old Testament, He uses God's Word to resist Satan and sin. He is the sinless Messiah!*

We'll continue our survey of the Gospel of Matthew next time.



MIND-IN-ACTION

Each week, we will end our time together with a MIND-IN-ACTION section. Often times, our minds are "Missing in Action!" It is vital you and I put what we learn from God's Word into action so we are DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only.

So, here is my challenge to you as we close today:

Thank God that He always keeps His promises.

As we move into the New Testament, we begin to enjoy seeing the fulfillment of God's promises to the Old Testament saints. If God kept all those promises, why would you doubt He would keep ALL His promises? He does, and He will, which begs the question: What has God promised His people? Keep on studying your Bible and seek to find His promises for you. Then thank Him every day for making and keeping those promises!

And the second part of my challenge is this:

Use God's Word to fight sin and Satan.

As you enjoy God's promises in Christ, you also have God's Word to defend you from sin and Satan. But that means you actually have to know the Bible! When you are tempted to sin, look to Scripture to instruct you how to live for Christ.

Close in prayer.